



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029

February 26, 2009

Diann Jacox, Superintendent
Cedar Creek and Belle Grove NHP
P. O. Box 700
Middletown, VA 22645

Subject: Draft General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park Frederick, Shenandoah, Warren Counties, Virginia November 2008 CEQ # 20080474

Dear Ms. Jacox:

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the subject document. The National Park Service (NPS) and its partners are responsible for managing Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historic Park (NHP) to conserve its scenery, natural and historic resources, and wildlife, and to provide for its enjoyment in a manner that will leave the park unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations. In 2002, Congress adopted enabling legislation creating Cedar Creek and Belle Grove NHP as a "partnership" park unit of the national park system.

The purpose of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) is to implement a programmatic management framework for the park. This general management plan will guide decision making at the park for the next 15 to 20 years. Four alternatives are considered in this DEIS. The alternatives describe varying degrees of coordination and involvement by the NPS and Key Partners. Alternative D is the preferred alternative. It includes an NPS-managed visitor center and focal areas owned and managed by the NPS and Key Partners. It also includes a formal agreement between the NPS and Key Partners. Visitors would access the park via several auto-touring routes and a system of non-motorized trails.

Based on our review, this DEIS is rated "LO" (Lack of Objections). A description of our rating system can be found at: <http://www.epa.gov/compliance/nepa/comments/ratings.html>.

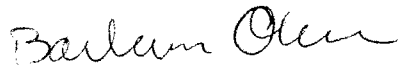
During any construction activities, impacts to resources should be avoided and minimized. In addition, activities under this action should comply with all appropriate state and federal guidelines, regulations, and executive orders (including Invasive Species, Green



Buildings, Low Impact Development, etc). An air quality analysis may be warranted if there is significant roadway construction.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments. If you have any questions, please contact me at (215) 814-3330.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Barbara Okorn".

Barbara Okorn
Office of Environmental Programs

